

## **Update on NWIRP/Northrop Grumman Bethpage Far Field Plume Nassau County, NY August 10, 2015**

**Background:** The combined former Northrop Grumman (formerly Grumman Aerospace) and the former Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant (NWIRP) Site facility is situated on 605 acres in the Town of Oyster Bay, Bethpage, in Nassau County, N.Y. Approximately 105 of the 605 acres were occupied by the NWIRP, a government -owned, contractor -operated facility. All of the manufacturing portions of the Northrop Grumman and the complete NWIRP facility are now closed, and most of the properties been transferred to Nassau County or sold to private developers. The facility is surrounded by industrial and commercial facilities along with several residential communities. There are several public and private water supply wells located within a two-mile radius of the facility. All water supplies are drawn from the Nassau-Suffolk aquifer system, which was designated a sole-source aquifer by EPA in 1975. The NYSDEC is the lead agency for overseeing remediation from releases at this facility. As the facility no longer manages hazardous wastes, NYSDEC's hazardous waste permit now covers only the RCRA corrective action requirements for cleaning up past releases.

**Issues:** Substantive progress has been made to address the concerns voiced by the water districts. These concerns pertain to:

- (1) Better communication between the Navy/ Northrop-Grumman and the water districts. To address this concern, quarterly meetings now are being held among the parties (EPA, NYSDEC, the Navy, Northrop Grumman, and the water districts) to discuss the water districts' concerns; The most recent quarterly meeting was held on June 22, 2015. The next quarterly meeting is targeted for October 2015. Additionally, the public is now being given the opportunity to discuss any concerns at public information sessions held just prior to the Navy's periodic Restoration Advisory meeting. The next public session is planned for August 11, 2015.
- (2) Hotspot definition. DEC has agreed to be flexible in its interpretation of ROD "hot-spot" definition to include concentrations greater than 500 ppb. EPA is working with the Navy and NG to ensure that contaminated groundwater in the area just south of Hempstead Turnpike (with contamination concentrations exceeding 500 ppb) will be addressed.
- (3) Expedited action on the plume. To address this concern, the Navy has submitted a workplan that includes a pilot study of full-scale pumping of Plant 6 Well 2 for a 3 month period to assess the capture system of the plant. This pump test will provide important information that will be used to determine where additional extraction may be required to address the hot-spot.
- (4) Northrop-Grumman participation. NG signed a consent order with DEC on April 21 for working jointly with the Navy on the OU-2 plume. Initial deliverables including an analysis of the effectiveness of the on-site containment system, and a workplan for coordinating with the Navy on a recently identified hot-spot have been delivered on schedule.
- (5) Timely data sharing. DEC has agreed to ensure that raw validated data would be provided to the water districts within 75 days of sampling. At the June 22 meeting parties agreed that data seems to be flowing according to the agreed upon schedule.
- (6) Emerging contaminants. To address these concerns, sampling currently is being performed for 1,4-dioxane at some wells and the Navy and NG have agreed to sample their wells for 1,4-dioxane using a low detection limit method. The Navy and NG will provide the water districts

with perchlorate sampling results that they currently have. At the June 22 meeting DEC agreed to sample for radium 226 and 228; DEC has submitted a sampling plan to the water districts for review and comment.